

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A child safety lock for door ~~lock-latch~~ mechanisms having ~~lever-door-handles of a type having~~ a rotatable shaft extending from a door and a lever extending radially from the rotatable shaft, the child safety lock comprising:

a lever ~~grip stop~~ element ~~configured to engage in~~ a portion of the lever to limit free motion of the lever as would be necessary to open the door ~~lock-latch~~ mechanism;

a fulcrum element attached to the lever ~~grip element so as to~~ be positioned proximate to the shaft as a fulcrum about the shaft;

at least one connecting element having a first end attached to the fulcrum element and extending radially therefrom to a second end sized to interfit with a stationary door structure;

whereby ~~the child safety lock conducts~~ a force of rotation of the lever in an unlocking direction ~~to may be conducted by the lever stop through the fulcrum element against the shaft and through the connecting element to the stationary door structure thereby preventing rotation of the lever.~~

2. (Previously Presented) The child safety lock of claim 1 wherein the connecting element is sized so that the second end interfits against a door jam adjacent to the door handle when the door is closed.

3. (Currently Amended) The child safety lock of claim 1 wherein the fulcrum element is a collar for surrounding the shaft.

4. (Original) The child safety lock of claim 3 wherein the collar includes at least a first and second collar portion openable for insertion of the shaft within the collar.

5. (Currently Amended) The child safety lock of claim 4 wherein the collar includes at least one latch for releasably retaining the collar closed about the shaft after the collar has been positioned about the shaft is inserted into the collar.

6. (Currently Amended) The child safety lock of claim 3 wherein the collar includes space filling elements allowing an opening of the collar to conform to different diameter shafts of different diameter.

7. (Previously Presented) The child safety lock of claim 6 wherein the space filling elements are spring fingers extending inward from an inner edge of the collar to flexibly press against an outer circumference of the shaft.

8. (Previously Presented) The child safety lock of claim 1 wherein the connecting element includes a release allowing it to be displaced from interfitting with a stationary door structure for rotation of the lever.

9. (Currently Amended) The child safety lock of claim 8 wherein an operator of the release extends from an upper side of the safety lock when the safety lock is positioned about the rotatable shaft is on the door.

10. (Previously Presented) The child safety lock of claim 8 wherein the connecting element is an arm and includes a pivot and the release is a catch preventing pivoting of the arm except when the catch is released.

11. (Currently Amended) The child safety lock of claim 1 wherein the lever ~~step~~ grip element is a loop-collar surrounding the lever.

12. (Currently Amended) The child safety lock of claim 1 wherein the lever grip element ~~step~~ is asymmetric about a plane perpendicular to an axis of the shaft and wherein the lever grip element ~~step~~ may be rotated about a radial axis for use with lever handles on either side of a door.

13. (Previously Presented) The child safety lock of claim 1 including a second connecting element extending radially from the fulcrum element to a second end sized to interfit with a stationary door structure.

14. (Currently Amended) The child safety lock of claim 13 wherein the connecting element includes a release ~~for~~ allowing it to be displaced from interfitting with a stationary door structure for rotation of ~~the a lever only in an upward direction~~ upward only.

15. (Currently Amended) The child safety lock of claim 1 wherein the lever grip element, fulcrum element, and connecting element are polymer materials.

16. (Currently Amended) The child safety lock of claim 1 wherein the connecting element has feet portions that ride against a front surface of a door equipped with the child safety lock.

17. (Currently Amended) A child safety lock for door ~~lock~~ latch mechanisms which have having lever door handles of a type having a lever that extends radially from a rotatable shaft which extends ing from a door and a lever extending radially from the rotatable shaft, the child safety lock comprising:
a lever engaging step element for engaging a portion of the lever;
a release lever ~~releasable catch~~;
a collar assembly attachable about the rotatable shaft of the door latch mechanism lever door handle and communicating with the lever step engaging element through the release lever releasable catch and with stationary door structure so that a force of rotation of the lever in an unlocking direction ~~may be~~ conducted by the lever step engaging element to the collar element assembly and therefrom to the stationary door structure when the catch is in an engaged state and so that the lever engaging element moves with the lever a force of rotation of the lever in an unlocking direction ~~may freely move the lever stop~~ when the catch is in a disengaged state.

18. (Currently Amended) The child safety lock of claim 17 wherein the collar assembly includes space filling elements allowing an opening of the collar to conform to shafts of different diameter.

19. (New) A lock assembly selectively engageable with a door assembly for interfering with the operation of a door latch having a lever handle, the device comprising:
a first portion for engaging the lever handle;
a second portion for removably engaging the first portion such that the first portion and the second portion are secured to the door latch when the first portion and the second portion are engaged with one another; and

an arm pivotably connected to the second portion, the arm being movable between a first position wherein the arm prevents operation of the lever handle and a second position wherein the first portion and the second portion rotate with the lever handle during operation of the door latch.

20. (New) The lock assembly of claim 19 further comprising another arm extending from the second portion, the arm and another arm fixing a position of the lever handle relative to the door only when the arm is in the first position.